

What is Claimed:

1. A multi-lumen catheter comprising an elongated tube having at least two lumens and a removable obturator configured to block a first lumen when said first lumen is not in use.
2. A catheter as in claim 1 wherein said obturator is made of a biocompatible plastic of sufficient stiffness for insertion into said first lumen.
3. A catheter as in claim 1 wherein said obturator comprises a locking mechanism on a distal end that removably connects said obturator to said tube and is configured such that said distal end of said obturator is flush with a distal end of said tube when said locking mechanism is engaged.
4. A catheter as in claim 3, wherein said locking mechanism is a luer lock.
5. A catheter as in claim 1, wherein said obturator has a mark thereon at a predetermined point so as to identify an amount of dead space in said first lumen when said obturator is fully inserted into said first lumen.
6. A catheter as in claim 5, further comprising a biocompatible adhesive that is injected into the dead space of said first lumen prior to insertion of said obturator, said adhesive bonding said obturator to said tube.
7. A catheter as in claim 6, further comprising a hub attached to a distal end of said tube, said hub identifying the amount of dead space in said first lumen, said hub having a fitting that communicates with said first lumen, said fitting configured to match a syringe containing an amount of said adhesive sufficient to fill the amount of dead space in said first lumen.
8. A catheter as in claim 1 having two lumens, said first lumen for inserting fluids into a patient and a second lumen for inserting fluids into a patient, said first lumen adapted to accept said removable obturator.

9. A catheter as in claim 1 having three lumens, said first lumen adapted to insert antibiotics into a patient or for accepting a guide wire, said first lumen adapted to accept said removable obturator, a second lumen for inserting fluids into a patient, and a third lumen for removing fluids from a patient.
10. A catheter as in claim 1 wherein said first lumen is adapted to collapse when not in use and said obturator is not inserted.
11. A method of treating a patient with a catheter having at least two lumens, comprising the steps of:
 - inserting the catheter into the patient;
 - applying a first treatment to the patient via a first lumen of the catheter;
 - applying a second treatment to the patient via a second lumen of the catheter; and
 - inserting a removable obturator into said one of said first and second lumens when said one lumen is not in use while treatment continues in the other of said first and second lumens, said obturator configured to block said one lumen when said one lumen is not in use.
12. A method as in claim 11 comprising the further step of removably locking a distal end of said obturator in said one lumen using a locking mechanism, wherein said locking mechanism is configured such that said distal end of said obturator is flush with a distal end of said catheter when said locking mechanism is engaged.
13. A method as in claim 11, wherein said obturator leaves a dead space in said one lumen when said obturator is fully inserted, comprising the further step of inserting a biocompatible adhesive into said dead space of said one lumen prior to insertion of said obturator in said inserting step, said adhesive bonding said obturator to said catheter.
14. A method as in claim 13, further comprising the step of attaching a hub to a distal end of said catheter, said hub identifying the amount of dead space in said one lumen and having a fitting that communicates with said one lumen, said fitting configured to match a syringe containing an amount of said adhesive sufficient to fill the amount of dead space in said one lumen.

15. A method as in claim 11, wherein said first treatment applying step comprises the step of inserting fluids into the patient via said first lumen and said second treatment applying step comprises the step of inserting fluids into the patient via said second lumen.

16. A method as in claim 11, wherein said first treatment applying step comprises the step of inserting antibiotics or a guide wire into the first lumen for insertion into the patient and said second treatment applying step comprises the step of inserting fluids into the patient via said second lumen.

17. A method as in claim 16, wherein said obturator inserting step includes the step of inserting said obturator into said first lumen after cessation of the application of said antibiotics or the removal of said guide wire.

18. A method of treating a patient with a catheter having at least two lumens, comprising the steps of:

inserting the catheter into the patient;
applying a first treatment to the patient via a first lumen of the catheter;
applying a second treatment to the patient via a second lumen of the catheter; and
sealing one of said first and second lumens when said one lumen is not in use
while treatment continues in the other of said first and second lumens.

19. A method as in claim 18 wherein said sealing step comprises the steps of inserting a removable obturator into said one lumen and locking a distal end of said obturator in said one lumen using a locking mechanism, wherein said locking mechanism is configured such that said distal end of said obturator is flush with a distal end of said catheter when said locking mechanism is engaged.